

Gospel of Matthew “Ordinary and Offensive”
Matthew 13:53-58
June 25, 2023

Matthew 13:53-58

53 And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there, 54 and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works? 55 Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? 56 And are not all his sisters with us? Where then did this man get all these things?” 57 And they took offense at him. But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his hometown and in his own household.” 58 And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.

Confusion and contempt in Nazareth.

John 16:33

33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

Matthew 16:2-3

2 He answered them, “When it is evening, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.’ 3 And in the morning, ‘It will be stormy today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ You know how to interpret the appearance of the sky, but you cannot interpret the signs of the times.

The human tendency to fault find.

We discredit so that we don’t have to change.

Jesus is just too ordinary.

John 1:45-46

45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” 46 Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”

Nazareth brings us closer to grace and how God works.

The downwardness of the gospel makes our worship better.

Jesus makes the ordinary matter.

Matthew 13:58

58 And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief.

If we don't receive Jesus as he comes to us, we miss the miracle of his help.

Grow Group Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- Does it surprise you that Nazareth struggled accepting Jesus as the Messiah because his family was too ordinary? In what ways can we make generalizations and judge others poorly?
- Share your thoughts about the human tendency to fault find. What are some of the subtle reasons we have for highlighting someone else's weaknesses, issues, or history?
- If the Church is made up of broken and needy people, then when is that helpful to reaching the world with the gospel and when is the Church its own obstacle?
- How does the ordinariness of Jesus reveal the gospel?
- How can Jesus being from Nazareth help us see value and purpose in common and ordinary things?
- Discuss Matthew 13:58 and the lack of mighty works because of a lack of faith. Describe the difference between increasing our belief that God can heal and having faith in a Jesus that is accessible, humble, and gracious.
- How can your Grow Group encourage you and help you apply this teaching to your life this week?